

**REMARKS**

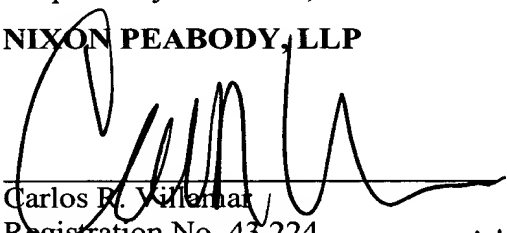
Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9, 11-14, 16, 18, and 20-21 are now pending in the application, with claims 1, 3, 7, 9, 13, 16, and 18 amended, and with claims 2, 4, 8, 10, 15, 17, and 19 cancelled. No new matter is introduced (see, e.g., claims 2, 4, 8, 10, 15, 17, and 19, as originally filed).

Applicant wishes thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 4, 10, 15, and 19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, independent claims 1, 7, 13, and 16 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter, claims 3, 9, and 18 have been amended to be consistent therewith, and claims 2, 4, 8, 10, 15, 17, and 19 have been cancelled, placing the case in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the pending claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9, 11-14, 16, 18, and 20-21 be allowed, and that the application be passed to issue. If, however, and any issues should arise, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to resolve same in an expeditious manner.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON PEABODY, LLP**

  
Carlos R. Villanar  
Registration No. 43,224

11/3/04

**NIXON PEABODY LLP**  
401 9<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Suite 900  
Washington, DC 20004  
(202) 585-8000